

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 /004 W

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P 091525Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8549

S E C R E T MOSCOW 0326

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMA

FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

1. RE STATE 4867, MAY BE USEFUL TO MAKE CHECKLIST FOR YOU AND AMBASSADOR OF FACTORS TO CONSIDER, EVEN THOUGH I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THEM:

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I WILL RAISE QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY ON PART OF EVERYONE WITH ACCESS TO EMBASSY, INCLUDING PRIVATE CITIZENS AND CORRESPONDENTS. PRESS STORIES LIKELY TO FOLLOW VERY SHORTLY, PERHAPS WITH WILD SPECULATION. WE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE FORCED TO GO PUBLIC IN VERY SHORT ORDER AND APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE WILL BE IMPERATIVE.

3. ASSUME TIMING THIS PROJECT IS BEING COORDINATED WITH TRAVEL PLANS. OCCURS TO US THAT IF NEWS SURFACES DURING OR SHORTLY AFTER, EVENTS COULD BE CONNECTED BY PRESS, LEADING TO AWKWARD QUESTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, IF DELAYS OCCUR WHICH MIGHT IN RETROSPECT BE ATTRIBUTED TO VISIT, THIS COULD BE SUBJECT TO DAMAGING MISINTERPRETATION.

4. BRIEFING SHOULD PREFERABLY BE CONDUCTED BY SPECIALIST(S) COMPETENT TO ANSWER WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS--I.E., SOMEONE FROM WASHINGTON.

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5. IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

SHOULD IDEALLY COINCIDE WITH BRIEFING; E.G., OFFER OF TRANSFER ON REQUEST, SEPARATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE IF FAMILIES DEPART, PERHAPS INCREASE IN DIFFERENTIAL (HARDSHIP), ETC. WE SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO INFORM STAFF OF SUCH MEASURES AT INITIAL BRIEFING.

6. IF THIS STORY EMERGES, DAMAGE TO OVERALL RELATIONSHIP COULD BE INCALCULABLE. ASSUME IMPLICATIONS ARE BEING SPELLED OUT TO OUR HOSTS IN BLUNT AND CLEAR FASHION. LATTER SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED, BY INACTION OR INATTENTION, TO BLUNDER INTO INCIDENT WHICH COULD CREATE SERIOUS AND LASTING IMPEDIMENT TO IMPROVED RELATIONS.  
MATLOCK

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